

Application No. 09/669,203
Amendment dated September 22, 2005
Reply to Office Action of June 3, 2005

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending in the application; the status of the claims is as follows:

Claims 9-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Application Publication No. 8-327917 to Masahito (“Masahito”).

Claims 1-8 are allowed.

Claims 9, 11, 12, and 14 have been amended to incorporate subject matter which was stated as being allowable in the Office Action dated June 3, 2005. Claim 2 has been added to correct grammar. These changes do not introduce any new matter.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Rejection

The rejection of claims 9-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Masahito, is respectfully traversed based on the following.

Claims 9 and 12 have been amended to recite “a resolution reducer for reducing image data of a frame sensed by said image sensing unit” and “a detector for detecting a degree of correlation between reduced image data of a plurality of frames from said resolution reducer before shooting.” As stated in section 6 of the Office Action, the prior art does not disclose this combination of claimed features. Therefore, the prior art is distinguished by amended claims 9 and 12, as well as claims 10 and 13 which depend therefrom.

Claims 11 and 14 have been amended to recite method steps of “reducing image data of a frame sensed by said image sensing unit” and “detecting a degree of correlation between reduced image data of a plurality of frames from said image sensing unit before shooting.” It is respectfully submitted that these method steps correspond to the

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combination of apparatus limitations stated to be allowable in section 6 of the Office Action. Therefore, the prior art is distinguished by amended claims 11 and 14.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 9-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Masahito, be reconsidered and withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Wherefore, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is considered to be in condition for allowance, and an early reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

This Amendment does not increase the number of independent claims, does not increase the total number of claims, and does not present any multiple dependency claims. Accordingly, no fee based on the number or type of claims is currently due. However, if a fee, other than the issue fee, is due, please charge this fee to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260.

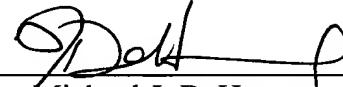
If an extension of time is required to enable this document to be timely filed and there is no separate Petition for Extension of Time filed herewith, this document is to be construed as also constituting a Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for a period of time sufficient to enable this document to be timely filed.

Any other fee required for such Petition for Extension of Time and any other fee required by this document pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17, other than the issue fee,

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and not submitted herewith should be charged to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's
Deposit Account No. 18-1260. Any refund should be credited to the same account.

Respectfully submitted,

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